



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

Executive Offices • 433 South Vermont Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 738-2961

December 11, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

## ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

30 December 11, 2012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE REGIONAL PARK  
AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT FOR COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT FOR THE  
VASQUEZ ROCKS ACQUISITION PROJECT  
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation to submit a grant application to the Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 in the amount of \$479,000 to partially fund the Vasquez Rocks Acquisition Project.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed Vasquez Rocks Acquisition Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project consists of acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the project.
2. Approve the request to submit a grant application to the Regional Park and Open Space District for County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 in the amount of \$479,000 to partially fund the Vasquez Rocks Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or his designee, as agent of the County, to accept the grant funds, execute the agreement, conduct all negotiations, and submit

all documents, including, but not limited to, amendments, Memorandum of Unrecorded Grant Agreement, and payment requests, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommendations will allow the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) to submit a grant application to the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) for County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), in the amount of \$479,000 to partially fund the Vasquez Rocks Acquisition Project (Project).

The scope of the Project consists of the acquisition of an approximately 31-acre parcel (portion of APN# 3212-006-020) located at 32820 Deerglen Lane in Santa Clarita, to be utilized for preservation and public nature education. This open space area is comprised of two blue line streams, two pristine canyons, riparian habitat, and a geologic corridor for a variety of wildlife species, including mountain lion, mule deer, and bobcats. In addition, the area is bordered on three sides (west, south, east) by Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park. The estimated total project cost is \$679,000.

In a related item on today's agenda, the District is recommending the allocation \$479,000 of County Excess Funds for the Project.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed recommendations further the Board approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by funding the acquisition of additional protected open space land in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The total estimated project cost is \$679,000. The project will be partially funded with \$479,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District. Sufficient appropriation for the project is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District's portion of the District's Excess Funds Project Fund. Additional funding of \$200,000 will be provided by the State of California Habitat Conservation Fund.

### **OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT**

The recommended actions allow the Department to submit a proposal to acquire land for preservation and public nature education purposes through grant funding. Additional operating costs may materialize from the acquisition but will be determined when the land is acquired and development plans are drawn.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The Department has met this requirement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed project consists of acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

These actions will have no impact on any other projects or services in the Antelope Valley portion of the Fifth Supervisorial District.

**CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects Division, and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY  
Director

RG:JW:FP:lr

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors